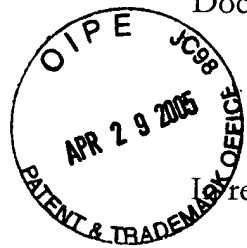


JPW

Docket No.: P-0618

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Confirmation No.: 3178

Sang-Bae KIM et al.

Group Art Unit: 3744

Serial No.: 10/725,011

Examiner: Chen Wen Jiang

Filed: December 2, 2003

Customer No.: 34610

For: REFRIGERATOR

REPLY TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Election Requirement dated March 30, 2005 wherein restriction has been required, Applicants hereby elect Species I, Figure 7 with traverse, for prosecution in the above-identified application. It is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims 1-21 read on Species I, Figure 7. Further, independent claim 1 is generic to Figures 7-9 and 12; independent claim 16 is generic to Figures 7-11; and independent claim 19 is generic to Figures 7-9 and 12.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the Election Requirement fails to correctly identify different species of the invention. Species are "specifically different embodiments" of a common generic invention. See MPEP §806.04(e). And while Figures 7, 10, 11, and 12 each show an embodiment of a variable temperature storage area of a refrigerator in accordance with the invention, Figures 8-9 show a washing means for washing vegetable or fruits in accordance

with an embodiment of the invention which may be utilized in or with a variable temperature storage area such as any of those shown in Figures 7, 10, 11, and 12. Thus, the washing means for washing vegetable or fruits shown in Figures 8-9 can be used with any of the variable temperature storage areas shown in Figures 7, 10, 11, and 12, and thus should not be included as a species in the Election Requirement.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

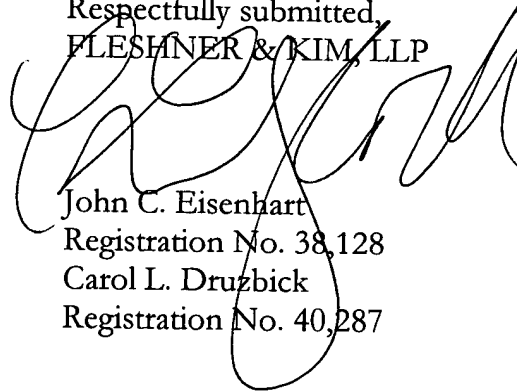
If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 10/725,011

Docket No. P-0618

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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